



With News & Classifieds From: **The Star-Ledger**

**CALIFORNIA. NICE STATE. LONG COMMUTE.**  
FIND A JOB YOU LOVE IN THE PLACE YOU LOVE

The Best Local Jobs  
**nj.com**

[➔ SEARCH](#) Pick Newspaper  Enter Keyword(s) [GO ➔](#) [➔ FIND A BUSINESS](#) Enter Category

[Home](#) [News+Biz](#) [Local](#) [Sports](#) [Forums+Chat](#) [Cams+Radio](#) [Living](#) [Entertainment](#)

**CLASSIFIED**

## NEWS

**The Express-Times**

Click here to subscribe!

» [More From The Express-Times](#)

### Pennsylvania News

## Bedrock's depth boosts bridge cost

Supports for Rt. 33 span to go deeper than 250 feet.

Saturday, April 03, 2004

By **ALYSSA YOUNG**  
**The Express-Times**

PALMER TWP. -- Imagine two Hotel Eastons stacked on top of each other.

The pair of 10-story buildings would be about 200 feet tall.

A heavy-duty rig this week drilled even deeper than that -- more than 250 feet -- into the northern bank of the Bushkill Creek before it hit rock.

And this new development means replacing the northbound Route 33 bridge that spans the stream will cost more than engineers originally estimated.

▼ From Our Advertiser

**Jumpstart  
Your  
Car Search**



The Best Local Autos

### INSIDE News

- » [Elections](#)
- » [Español](#)
- » [NewsFlash](#)
- » [Newspapers](#)
- » [News Obituaries](#)
- » [Paid Death Notices](#)
- » [Photos](#)
- » [Weather Center](#)
- » [WebFlash](#)

▶ [SEND THIS PAGE](#)

▶ [PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

### SPEAK UP!

- » [National Politics](#)
- » [Warren Co.](#)
- » [Hunterdon Co.](#)
- » [More Forums](#)

» [Log On to ChatXtra!](#)

### NEW JERSEY LOTTERY

» [MEGAMILLIONS JACKPOT is \\$ 105 MEGA MILLION](#)

An Advertising Section

*Get The Best Local*  
[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)  
[All Classifieds](#) | [Place Ad](#)

Win a Free One & Stay Package!  
Tickets for Two  
» [Shopping: Stores & Yellow Pages](#)  
» [Fun Guide: Things to do in NJ](#)

### Fleet HomeLink



[Log In Now](#) ➔

Fleet HomeLink<sup>SM</sup> Online Bank

**The Fleet Home Equity Line.**  
Get smarter with your money.

■ Rates as low as 2.99%

Click

after a virtually irreparable sinkhole opened beneath one of its piers Jan. 24.

Workers are installing a foundation of pin piles that will tie the replacement bridge's abutments to the underground rock to ensure a sinkhole cannot destroy the new structure.

They will drill pins around the piers and abutments into the rock below, then cover them with concrete to connect them to the bridge supports.

The original estimate for the bridge project was \$6 million, but because the pin piles must extend deeper into the ground than expected, construction will cost more than that, PennDOT spokesman Sean Pressman said Friday.

How much more?

"We have no idea the total cost," Pressman said.

The pin piles cost \$80 per linear foot, but engineers do not know how many they will need, he said.

The Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program will pay 80 percent of costs to build the new bridge, Pressman said.

It will cover 90 percent of the emergency expenses associated with the project, which include the cost to build the two crossover lanes that divert northbound traffic around the construction site, he said.

The original bridge and the southbound bridge were built 34 years ago on compacted soil. When the soil under one of the northbound bridge's piers collapsed into a sinkhole, the pier shifted and cracked. The movement damaged the beams supporting the road.

PennDOT also plans to underpin the existing southbound bridge -- about 80 feet west of the bridge under construction -- to prevent a similar mishap. The southbound bridge sank an inch during the weeks its northbound counterpart was being demolished, but no additional movement has been detected since.

Last week, workers drilling test piles where the northern abutment of the new northbound bridge will stand drilled as deep as their rig could handle -- almost 150 feet -- without hitting rock, PennDOT spokesman Ronald Young Jr. said.

A larger drill arrived Tuesday, and workers on Wednesday found rock at depths ranging from 170 feet to more than 250 feet below ground level, he said.

Below the Bushkill Creek's southern bank, the drill rig hit rock between 70 and 90 feet deep.

Young said engineers have told him underground rock resembles mountain peaks.

Workers next will conduct "load tests" on the test piles they drilled to determine whether they can support 150 tons of pressure, Young said.



Find the  
**BEST LOCAL**  
Mortgage Rates  
Here!

Best Local  
Real Estate

**nj.com**  
Everything Jersey

#### THE EXPRESS-TIME

- » [Save 39% Off Regular Home D Rates](#)
- » [How To Guide '04: Outstanding](#)

#### » **Advertise With U**

#### VISIT OUR ADVERTIS

- >> [ERA Real Estate - Always T For You](#)
- >> [Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shi NJ - Making Healthcare Work](#)
- >> [Century 21 Atlantic-request : market analysis](#)
- >> [Interested in a permanent, lc weight-loss solution? Attend our i seminar.](#)

If the test piles can handle the weight, the production piles they have started drilling, which will support the new bridge, also will be strong enough, he said.

Engineers will not finalize the technical specifications for the new bridge until they finish exploring the geology of the area, Young said.

They are using a "design-build" process so they can design portions of the bridge while other sections already are under construction.

Don Lerch, PennDOT's assistant district executive for design, has said the new northbound Route 33 bridge will be built with concrete beams, which can be up to 150 feet long.

Steel beams, which come in longer lengths, are difficult to obtain, he said.

Because the demolished bridge was longer -- 174 feet, with two sets of piers in the middle -- the new abutments must be built closer together.

They still will stand outside the Bushkill Creek, Lerch said.

*Reporter Alyssa Young can be reached at 610-863-3841 or by e-mail at [ayoung@express-times.com](mailto:ayoung@express-times.com).*

» [Send This Page](#) | » [Print This Page](#)

Copyright 2004 The Express-Times. Used with permission.

#### MORE PA NEWS

- » [Teenager gets prison for drug possession](#)
- » [Trouble piles up for stump dump operators -- DEP urges fine, jail](#)
- » [Contaminated bologna recalled by Bangor store](#)

[More Stories](#) | [14-Day Archive](#) | [Complete News Index](#)

**[The Best Local Classifieds:](#)** [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)



#### Special Home Delivery Offers!

[The Star-Ledger](#) | [The Times, Trenton](#) | [The Jersey Journal](#)  
[Gloucester Co. Times](#) | [The Express-Times](#)  
[Bridgeton News](#) | [Today's Sunbeam](#)

---

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).  
© 2004 [NJ.com](#). All Rights Reserved.

